

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATION REQUEST FOR 2012-2013

Actions Requested: (1) Consider approval of the proposed 2012-2013 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers: \$34,513 for the Quad Cities Graduate Center (Quad Cities); \$66,601 for the Tri-State Graduate Study Center (Sioux City); and \$182,734 for the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (Council Bluffs). (2) Direct the Board Office to notify, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of funds allocated to the centers as specified in SF 2321, Sec. 6.

Executive Summary: The proposed funding allocations, developed by the State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), for 2012-2013 describe the anticipated benefits to be derived at the Regional Study Centers. The 2012-2013 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers have been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and are recommended for approval.

Background: The 2012 General Assembly appropriated a total of \$283,848 to be allocated to the three regional study centers. Furthermore, SF 2321 Sec. 6, authorized the Board of Regents “to transfer moneys appropriated to the study centers if the Board notifies, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of the amount, the date, and the purpose of the transfer.”

The **Quad Cities Graduate Center**, located on the campus of Western Illinois University – Quad Cities in Moline, Illinois with an office in Davenport, is a consortium of universities in Illinois (Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Saint Xavier University, University of Illinois, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities) and Iowa (Drake University, Iowa State University, St. Ambrose University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa).

- ⇒ The center provides written materials about each institution’s certificate, master’s, doctoral, and non-credit offerings, although the same information is available online through the universities’ websites.
- ⇒ There are no classes offered at the center. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online or on the institutions’ campuses (e.g., St. Ambrose University). A few programs, such as the University of Iowa’s Master of Social Work Program, are offered in a face-to-face or blended format at a location arranged by the university.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the Illinois General Assembly and the Iowa General Assembly. Illinois funding decreased from \$220,000 in 2002-2003 to \$65,000 in 2011-2012 (-70.5%). Iowa funding decreased from \$161,173 in 2002-2003 to \$129,776 (-41.0%) in 2011-2012.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective university.
- ⇒ The number of Iowa students enrolled in Regent university programs was 1,147 in 2010-2011; the number of Illinois students enrolled in Illinois university programs was 4,296 in 2010-2011.

The **Tri-State Graduate Center**, located in the building occupied by the Northwest Area Education Agency (AEA) in Sioux City, is a consortium of post-secondary institutions in Nebraska (Bellevue University and Northeast Community College), South Dakota (University of Sioux Falls and University of South Dakota), and Iowa (Briar Cliff University, Drake University, Iowa State University, Morningside College, University of Iowa, University of Northern Iowa, Northwest Iowa Community College, St. Luke's College, and Western Iowa Tech Community College).

- ⇒ The center provides written materials about each institution's certificate, baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and non-credit offerings, although the same information is available online through the universities' websites.
- ⇒ The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online or on the institutions' campuses (e.g., Morningside College, Western Iowa Tech Community College). A few programs, such as Iowa State University's Art and Design offerings, are offered in a face-to-face or blended format at a location arranged by the university (Iowa State University Design West Studio).
- ⇒ Professional development continuing education courses for practicing K-12 teachers are offered by the Northwest AEA on their site.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the South Dakota General Assembly and the Iowa General Assembly. South Dakota funding decreased from \$9,478 in 2002-2003 to \$3,914 in 2011-2012 (-58.7%). Iowa funding decreased from \$79,940 in 2002-2003 to \$66,601 (-16.7%) in 2011-2012. Nebraska funding for the Center decreased from \$46,457 in 2002-2003 to \$0 in 2011-2012 (-100.0%).
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective university.
- ⇒ The number of Iowa students enrolled in Regent university programs was 363 in 2010-2011; the number of South Dakota students enrolled in South Dakota university programs was 246 in 2010-2011. There were no Nebraska students enrolled in 2010-2011.

The **Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (SWIRRC)**, located on the campus of Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), is part of the Regent Enterprise and includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. The Center was formerly located on the Iowa School for the Deaf campus but re-located to rented space on the campus of IWCC in August 2011.

- ⇒ The center provides written materials about the programs although the same information is available online through the universities' websites. There are currently no classes offered at the center. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online.
- ⇒ SWIRCC supports and enhances the outreach efforts of the Regent universities; there are no other universities (including out-of-state institutions) in the consortium. It supports programming efforts not only at the graduate level, but also at the undergraduate level.
- ⇒ The Center serves as a focal point for programming, offers personal assistance to prospective students, proctors examinations, and coordinates promotional efforts for the three universities.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the Iowa General Assembly. Iowa funding decreased from \$126,000 in 2008-2009 to \$87,471 (-30.6%) in 2011-2012. An impact of the funding decrease was the inability to refill the full-time director position.

- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective Regent university.
- ⇒ The number of Iowa students enrolled in Regent university programs was 408 in 2010-2011.

PROPOSED 2012-2013 REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), in collaboration with the Council of Provosts, proposes the following allocation of funds to the Regional Study Centers in 2012-2013:

◆ QuadCities Graduate Center.

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes to allocate \$34,513 to the Center for 2012-2013. This is a reduction of \$95,263 (-73.4%) from the prior year. The new funding is consistent with the level of direct services provided to Regent university students. The bulk of the Center's budget is allocated to administrative overhead.
- ⇒ Technology and methodologies used to deliver and market distance education courses and programs have significantly changed in the last decade. The majority of programs offered by the three Regent universities rely on on-line delivery capabilities. The two graduate programs in the Quad Cities area are well established and rely on web and program specific marketing strategies. Both the Master of Social Work Program and the Master of Business Administration Program are site-based. The MBA program is housed at the Palmer College of Chiropractic. The University of Iowa is currently evaluating space on the campus of Eastern Iowa Community College for the Master of Social Work Program. It had been located on the Western Illinois University campus but space is no longer available on that campus.
- ⇒ The value added by the Center is limited because the services it provides to the universities is duplicative of services already provided by the universities.
- ⇒ SECDEC proposes to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the programmatic needs in the Quad Cities area during 2012-2013 to determine the optimal approach to providing needed services in that area.

◆ Tri-State Graduate Study Center.

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes to allocate \$66,601 to the Center for 2012-2013. This is status quo funding from the prior year.
- ⇒ The three Regent universities will continue to use web based technologies to deliver educational programs in the Sioux City area.
- ⇒ SECDEC proposes to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the programmatic needs in the Sioux City area during 2012-2013 to determine the optimal approach to providing needed services in that area.

◆ Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes to allocate \$182,734 to the Center in 2012-2013. This is an increase of \$95,263 (+108.9%) from the prior year.

- ⇒ The objective of the relocation of the Center to the IWCC campus in 2011 was to enhance the Regent universities' presence in the region, build a stronger connection with the community colleges, and increase the connection with prospective students interested in either distance or residential programs.
- ⇒ The increase in funding will be used to hire an instructor/coordinator with both teaching and oversight responsibilities. The instructor/coordinator will meet the requirements of an adjunct faculty member and will be appointed by an academic department at one of the Regent universities. The courses taught by this individual will be accepted at any of the three Regent universities.
- ⇒ Historically, SWIRRC has focused on serving the population in the IWCC district. However, the Southwest Iowa Community College District has agreed to participate in the new collaboration. The partner community college districts will be invited to co-sponsor the faculty position and identify teaching needs.
- ⇒ The academic area that will be selected jointly by the community colleges and the Regent universities will address the instructional needs of community college students, especially in the STEM fields.